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ABSTRACT

The Parent Project is a workshop approach to increasing parent involvement in their children's education. It began in the late 1980s in three inner-city elementary schools in Milwaukee (Wisconsin) as an outgrowth of the Milwaukee Writing Project. The workshop approach that developed focused on what children were learning in the classroom and how this learning could be supported at home. Working partnerships between parents and teachers have paid many dividends for the children in these schools. This guide to presenting workshops discusses how to begin them and how to conduct the workshop, with sample schedules and a list of factors that contribute to success. A 3-year plan is presented for moving beyond the initial meetings and promoting community building. Workshops for the specific areas of reading, writing, developing self-esteem, and special interests are described. Evaluation is an integral part of the parent participation project, and suggestions are offered for evaluation and advocacy. A resource section includes sample forms, an annotated bibliography of 39 children's books, a 180-item bibliography for children, and a list of resources for parents. (SLD)

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